

Mass Times

Vigil Saturday: 6pm
Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm
Monday to Friday: 10 am
Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem



Wedding

Congratulations to **David O'Shea** and **Clare Whitely** who were married in our Church on Friday 11th December, 2020.
Fr. Cian O'Sullivan officiated.

Recently Deceased

Helen Ahern, Clover Lawn
May the light of heaven surround her always.

Mass times changes 2021

From 28th December 2020 to 1st January 2021, daily Mass will be at **11am** and Baptisms will take place after Mass at 12pm.



St Michael's Church, Blackrock
Christmas Mass Celebrations

Christmas Eve Dec. 24th
12 Noon. 4 pm 6 pm 8pm
Admission by pre-booked ticket only

Christmas Day Dec. 25th
9 am & 11 am
Admission by pre-booked ticket only

St Stephen's Day Dec. 26th
6.00 Vigil (No morning Mass)

Sunday 27th Dec.
9 am & 11 am

If you feel unwell, please do not attend Mass.
Access to the top half of the Church is only by the side door.
Please follow stewards guidance.

The church will be open 30 minutes before each Mass



Christmas Masses

Bear in mind, we are still **limited to 100** at any one Mass. This will be strictly adhered to in order to avoid anyone getting sick.

The Masses will be all ticket.

These will be available in the sacristy after 10am weekday Mass and on Sunday after 9am and 11am.

Tickets will be limited to 4 per family.

Please understand that if you do not have a ticket, you will be unable to attend. Access to the top half of the church is strictly by the side door. Please do not unhook the barrier. *Thanks*

This is Gaudete, Rejoice!, Sunday and the tone in the readings is certainly that of joy. It is a welcome invitation this year of all years. The relaxation of the pandemic restrictions, even if risky, is timely: we all feel the need of down-time, being together, celebration and, yes, joy.

Insistence on joy is a mark of the ministry of Pope Francis. The titles of his various letters are a good indication: *The Joy of the Gospel, Laudato Si', The Happiness of Love, Rejoice and Be Glad, Fratelli Tutti.*

Precisely because joy in believing is not so easy for us today, we need it more than ever — perhaps paradoxically. Joy because of, and not in spite of, all the challenges is the mark of the Christian disciple. St Paul is the great exemplar in Philippians, but he is not alone.

Carol Service

A Diocesan Advent - Christmas Carol Service will be streamed from the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne on Sunday 13th December at 7.30pm. People from throughout the Diocese of Cork and Ross are invited to join in the Carol Service via the Cathedral webcam <https://www.corkcathedral.ie/live-stream/>. The words of the carols and full order of service can be downloaded from the Diocesan website www.corkandross.org beforehand.

Remembrance List

The names on the December Remembrance List for the dead will not be read out individually. Instead they will be prayed for at each Mass.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic. (1) Roisin O'Rourke: The work of bringing young people to the heart of the Church by Youth 2000 goes on (2) David Quinn: Too soon to say what post-Covid 'great reset' will do to world. (3) Maria Steen: Catholics must be able to rely on constitutional protection. (4) ACP call to cancel Christmas Masses 'overly cautious' -- Baroness O'Loan

Catholic Voice: (1) Fr. Colm Mannion O.P.: Time without a face.

(2). The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. (3) Our Lady of Guadalupe and her impact.

Welcome to the celebration of Sunday Mass

To maximise the number of people that can join us for the celebration of Mass, we have made a number of changes to both the church, and to how we celebrate Mass, so that we comply with HSE guidelines and keep everyone safe.



We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit.

We will continue to stand for the "Gospel" and "Our Father".

We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime

Ministers of the Eucharist will be positioned at the top and centre of the church. The Ministers will wear face masks and we ask that you maintain 2 metres distance in the line. Follow the Stewards guidance during Communion.

Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.

Welcome to St Michael's

- People and families are asked to consider coming to Mass at anytime from Christmas Eve to Epiphany (6th January) for 'their Christmas Mass'.
- This year you can come to Christmas Mass anytime over the 'twelve days of Christmas'
- **There will be four Masses on Thursday Christmas Eve at 12 noon, 4pm, 6pm & 8pm.**
- Not everyone can come on Christmas Eve at 6pm so think of another Mass on that day or on another day.
- **Masses Friday Christmas Day at 9am & 11am.**
- Think of coming instead on Saturday (St. Stephen's Day) at 6pm – it might be a very good time!
- Think of coming on Sunday 27th at 9am or 11am.
- Think of coming any morning during the following week, Monday 28th – Friday 1st at 11am Mass each day.
- Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas day will have to be pre-booked tickets. These will be available from the sacristy after 9 and 11 am Mass on Sunday 13th.
- Think of other people as we all just won't be able to go to our 'usual' Mass this year.
- If you can't get to any of these Masses, think of visiting the Church Crib at another time. This year it will be positioned in the sanctuary so that it will be in the open and safer to visit.
- We are all doing our best and working together to make this a prayerful Christmas and a special time in the parish Church.
- We indebted to our volunteer stewards, cleaners, all the different ministries and all those who have helped to keep our church safe for people since March.
- Thanks for your generosity and response to the recent mailing in relation to parish finance in 'A Message from your Parish'.
- This year we need to work together, think of one another (especially the bereaved during 2020) as we celebrate the Birth of Jesus.
- The sun will rise again in 2021!



Thought for the day

In the words of John's Gospel, John the Baptist came as a witness, to speak for the light, the true light who was coming into the world. In this season of Advent, the Baptist points us towards the coming one and he invites us to reflect on our need of the light of Jesus in the darkness of our lives. Darkness means many things: a sense of being lost, a lack of direction, helplessness, sin or indeed lack of faith. This Christmas, may the God who said "Let light shine out of darkness," shine in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).
Prayer
We come before you in the darkness of our lives, aware of our need of Christ, the light of the world. Let us receive him in faith so that we may become witnesses to that light which has truly come into the world.

Reflections

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you— a friend, a parent, a teacher, for example? To whom have you borne that witness?
2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?
3. John was "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness"— announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace will come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?
4. The priests and Levites challenged John the Baptist on his authority for speaking as he did and tried to put a label on him so that they could more easily dismiss what he had to say. When were you open to accept a truth from a person whom you had previously dismissed as having nothing to say to you?

PRAYER

O God, most high and most near, you send glad tidings to the lowly, you hide not your face from the poor; those who dwell in darkness you call into the light. Take away our blindness, remove the hardness of our hearts, and form us into a humble people, that, at the advent of your Son, we may recognise him in our midst and find joy in his saving presence. This prayer we make through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.

DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE

Coronavirus COVID-19



Stay safe. Protect each other.

Continue to:



Wash
your hands well and often to avoid contamination.



Cover
your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue safely



Distance
yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell